

**An Roinn Cumarsáide, Fuinnimh agus Acmhainní Náúúrtha.**  
**Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources.**

23 July 2008.

Ms. Maeve Sheehan,  
Sunday Independent  
Talbot Street  
Dublin 1

Dear Ms. Sheehan,

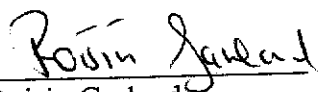
**Application under Freedom of Information Act 1997-2003**

I refer to the request which you made under the Freedom of Information Act 1997 and 2003 for records held by this Department. Letter of 10 July 2008 from Mr. Rory Boy in this regard also refers.

I have made a final decision to part grant your request. A schedule is attached to this letter and shows the documents that this Department considers relevant to your request. The schedule indicates whether the document is released in full, released with deletions or not released. The schedule refers to the sections of the FOI Act which apply to prevent release.

You may appeal this decision. Please note, that a fee of €75 applies for an appeal. You can appeal by writing to the Freedom of Information Unit, Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, Elm House, Earlsvale Road, Cavan. You should make your appeal within 4 weeks from the date of this notification, however, the making of an late appeal may be permitted in appropriate circumstances. The appeal will involve a complete reconsideration of the matter by a more senior member of the staff of this Department.

Yours sincerely

  
Roisin Garland  
Petroleum Affairs Division

**FOI Request Reference:**

**Schedule of Records: Summary of Decision Making**

Rec. No	Brief description and date of record	File Ref	No. of Pages	Decision: Grant/Part Grant/Refuse	Reason for Decision	Record Edited/Identify Deletions
1	Letter from Shell to DCENR including Annual Lease Return 2006 dated 24 July 2007	A05/16	24	Part Grant	Documents contain commercially sensitive information. Section 27 (1) (b) of the FOI Act. 3 <sup>rd</sup> party request issued.	Pages 5,6,8,,9,10,11,12, 16,18,19,20,21,2 2,23,24 deleted
2	Let from Shell to DCENR enclosing Section 4 of the 2006 Annual Lease Return, dated 17 September 2007	A05/16	5	Part Grant	Commercially sensitive information Section 27 (1)(b) FOI Act. Third Party request issued.	Pages 2,3,4,5 deleted
3	Acknowledgment letter from DCENR to Shell dated 20 September 2007	A05/16	1	Release		
4	Letter from DCENR to SEPIL dated 13 November 2007	A05/16	2	Refuse	Commercially sensitive information Section 27 (1)(b)FOI	

Rec. No	Brief description and date of record	File Ref	No. of Pages	Decision: Grant/Part Grant/Refuse	Reason for Decision	Record Edited/Identify Deletions
5	Letter from SEPIL dated 10 January 2008 requesting meeting to discuss Annual Lease Return	A 05/16	1	Release	Third Party request issued.	
6	Letter from SEPIL to DCENR dated 19 February 2008 regarding ALR 2006	A05/16	7	Refuse	Commercially sensitive information - Section 27 (1)(b). Third Party request issued.	
7	Letter of acknowledgement from DCENR to SEPIL dated 21 February 2008.	A05.16	1	Release		



# Shell Exploration & Production

①

Shell E&P Ireland Limited  
Corrib House  
52 Lower Leeson Street  
Dublin 2  
Ireland  
Tel +353 1 669 4100  
Fax +353 1 669 4101

Petroleum Affairs Division  
Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources  
2 Leeson Lane  
Dublin 2  
Attn: Mr. Ciarán Ó hÓbáin

Our Ref: COR-01-SH-GM-991

24<sup>th</sup> July 2007

**Re: 2006 Annual Lease Return**

Dear Mr. Ó hÓbáin,

Please find enclosed the Annual Lease Return for 2006, which is complete with the exception of Section 4 - Hydrocarbons initially in place, reserves and production profiles.

We anticipate submitting Section 4 by mid September 2007. We regret the delay in completing the 2006 Annual Lease Return and will endeavour to submit the 2007 return in a timely manner.

Should you have any questions or comments on the 2006 Annual Lease Return please contact Mr Gerry Costello or myself.

Yours sincerely

Andy Pyle  
Managing Director  
Shell E&P Ireland Limited



**CORRIB PETROLEUM LEASE  
ANNUAL LEASE RETURN FOR 2006**

Shell E&P Ireland Limited,

Corrib House,  
52 Lower Leeson Street, Dublin 2

July 2007

Private and Confidential  
**Commercially Sensitive**

## CONTENTS

- 1. Introduction and summary**
  - 1.1 Summary of 2006 Activities
  - 1.2 Other matters
- 2. History and status**
- 3. Exploration and appraisal**
- 4. Hydrocarbons initially in place, reserves and production profiles (To be finalised)**
- 5. Development**
  - 5.1 Engineering
  - 5.2 Development activity
  - 5.3 Future plans
  - 5.4 Project Organisation and Location
- 6. Deferred development**
  - 6.1 Deferred development
  - 6.2 Future development decisions
- 7. Management plan**
- 8. Production**
- 9. Facilities decommissioning**
- 10. Health, safety and environment**
- 11. Budget and costs**
  - 11.1 Development costs
  - 11.2 Operating costs
- 12. Nearby acreage potential and coordination**
  - 12.1 Prospects and leads
  - 12.2 Coordinated area development
- 13. Insurance**
- 14. Other matters**
  - 14.1 Force Majeure

14.2 Commencement of Commercial Production Operations

14.3 Conditions precedent in Petroleum Lease

14.4 Plan of Development revision

**Figures**

Figure 5.1 Revised project schedule

## 2 HISTORY AND STATUS

There have been no changes to the lessees' equity interests since the 2005 Annual Lease Return.

Mechanical completion of the Mayo-Galway Pipeline was achieved by Bord Gáis Éireann in the fourth quarter of 2006, with the exception of the section of pipeline crossing the R314 and entering the terminal. It is proposed to construct this section in 2008/2009.

## **6. DEFERRED DEVELOPMENT**

### **6.1 Deferred development**

There are no plans for deferred development or future development phases that have not been outlined already in Section 5.

### **6.2 Future development decisions**

There are currently no unresolved development decisions that were identified by the Plan of Development or previous Annual Lease Returns.

## 7 MANAGEMENT PLAN

A proposed detailed Management Plan will be submitted to the PAD not less than 90 days prior to the start of any petroleum production, whether for commissioning, commercial production or other purposes, in line with part 8 of the 'Rules and Procedures Manual for Offshore Petroleum Production Operations', DCMNR, 22/10/04).

## 8 PRODUCTION

There is no production from the Corrib gas field, and none is planned in 2007.

Future production related issues are discussed in Sections 4, 5 and 6.

## 10 HEALTH, SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENT

Although there was little construction site activity during 2006, some 647,023 man-hours were expended on the project and over 420,634 kilometres were travelled, mainly related to personnel movements and some haulage activities associated with return to the terminal site working in October 2006. There was also offshore drilling, offshore wellhead protection installation and survey work. No reportable incidents occurred in relation to these activities.

During 2006, the following reportable incidents (Lost Time Incidents) occurred and were reported to the Health and Safety Authority in 2006, as required under the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (General Applications) Regulations:

- A contractor working on the terminal construction site received a laceration to his hand when the window of his excavator fell from the support guides.
- A contractor working on the terminal construction slipped at ground level and struck his back upon a fence post resulting in lower back pain.

Several measures were taken during 2006 in preparation for safe return to site and resumption of peat removal activities.

1. Defensive Driver training was provided by the Institute of Advanced Motoring (Ireland) for all peat haulage drivers and staff who regularly travel from the Dublin office to Mayo
2. Activity Safety Review Panels were set up to give an opportunity for senior staff to jointly influence HS&E decision-making and ensure that, for critical or unusual situations, the risks will be reduced to as low as reasonably practicable.
3. Specialised training and facilities were provided to make peat haulage drivers more aware of how to anticipate and respond to protestor techniques to minimise risk of injury to protestors or other road users.
4. Road improvement activities were carried out by Mayo County Council on the peat haulage route. A road traffic management plan was also implemented by SEPIL to minimise the potential impact of vehicle breakdowns or road incidents on other road users.

Due to the delays experienced in completing the earthworks scope of the terminal site construction works, there have been occasional exceedances of the water quality target limits agreed with Mayo County Council in the Environmental Monitoring Plan for the site, which has been established in compliance with the planning permission. These exceedances mainly occurred during the winter season. After re-commencement of works on the site in October 2006 a large capacity electro-flocculation plant (Axonics) for treating surface water from the site was installed in order to control the quality of the drainage waters. This plant has now been fully commissioned, so in combination with the progress of construction works, it is expected that similar exceedances can be prevented during winters to come.



# Shell Exploration & Production

2

Shell E&P Ireland Limited  
Corrib House  
52 Lower Leeson Street  
Dublin 2  
Ireland  
Tel +353 1 669 4100  
Fax +353 1 669 4101

*Relh*  
20.9.07

Mr. Ciaran Ó'hÓbáin  
Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources  
2 Leeson Lane  
Dublin 2

Our Ref: COR-01-SH-GM-999

17<sup>th</sup> September 2007

Re: 2006 Annual Lease Return – Section 4

*Marian*  
Please acknowledge, circulate  
and follow up as  
necessary. Please also brief  
Ciaran when he returns  
from annual leave.

Dear Mr. Ó hÓbáin,

With reference to my earlier letter COR-01-SH-GM-991 regarding the 2006 Annual Lease Return, please find enclosed Section 4 (Hydrocarbons initially in place, reserves and production profiles) of the 2006 Annual Lease Return.

*Relh*  
20.9.07

Should you have any questions or comments on Section 4 of the 2006 Annual Lease Return please contact Mr Gerry Costello or myself.

Yours sincerely

*Andy Pyle*  
Andy Pyle  
Managing Director  
Shell E&P Ireland Limited

*Mr Murphy*  
*Mr Cackler*

*For your consideration & attention*

*Marian Sato*  
20/9/07

3

A05/16  
Your ref COR-01-SH-GM-991  
Your ref COR-01-SH-GM-999

20 September 2007

Mr Andy Pyle  
Managing Director  
Shell E & P Ireland Limited  
Corrib House  
52 Lower Leeson Street  
Dublin 2

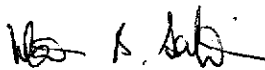
**Corrib 2006 Annual Lease Return**

Dear Mr Pyle

I acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 17 September 2007 enclosing Section 4 – Hydrocarbons initially in place, reserves and production profiles of the Annual Lease Return (ALR).

The ALR for 2006 is currently being reviewed in the Department and we will revert to you in due course.

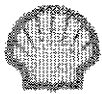
Yours sincerely



Ciaran Ó hÓbáin

Principal

5



# Shell Exploration & Production

Kulth  
Please place on ALR  
file

Shell E&P Ireland Limited  
Corrib House  
52 Lower Leeson Street  
Dublin 2  
Ireland  
Tel +353 1 669 4100  
Fax +353 1 669 4101

Feb 15.1.08  
Mr. Ciarán Ó'hObáin  
Principal Officer  
Petroleum Affairs Division  
Department of Communications, Energy & Natural Resources  
Leeson Lane  
Dublin 2

Ms Ryan 18/1/08  
For action  
Please  
Kulth  
16.1.08

10<sup>th</sup> January 2008

Dear Mr. Ó'hObáin,

### Subject: Corrib 2006 Annual Lease Return (ALR)

I refer to your letter of November 13, 2007. We will respond this month in writing to the issues 2 - 5 that you have identified in your letter. In order however to properly convey our position to the points you raise in your first issue addressing reserve reductions, we feel it is more appropriate to do this after briefing to you of the Flow Assurance issues and possible engineering solutions associated with those issues. Following these technical presentations, we would like to discuss with you how to progress in such a way that we can close out the 2005 and 2006 Annual Lease Return (ALR), and summarise this in a letter to you.

Gerry Costello will contact you to arrange a meeting.

May I take the opportunity to wish you and your team a happy and prosperous 2008.

Yours sincerely,

Andy Pyle  
Managing Director

Ciarán (for y- interests)  
Ward  
23/1/08  
None

Issues discussed at subsurface meeting of 22/1/08. It was agreed that a proposed way forward is for SEPIL to present subsurface aspects of reserves calculations at the next subsurface meeting scheduled for March. A presentation on the end of field life has been arranged for 7/2/08. It is hoped that reserves issue will be finalised in April in time for 2008 ALR



An Roinn Cumarsáide, Fuinnimh agus Acmhainní Nádirtha.  
Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources.

7

Our ref: A05/08

21 February 2008

Mr. Andy Pyle  
Managing Director  
Shell E & P Ireland Limited  
Corrib House  
52 Lower Leeson Street  
Dublin 2

**Re: Corrib Gas Project**

Dear Mr Pyle,

I would like to acknowledge receipt of your letter regarding the above dated 19 February 2008 which is currently under consideration.

Yours sincerely

Ciarán Ó hÓbáin  
Principal Officer



Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources  
Roinn Cumarsáide, Fuinnimh agus Acmhainní Nádúrtha

30/05/2008

Ms Maeve Sheehan  
Sunday Independent  
Talbot St.,  
Dublin 1,

FOI Request Reference: FOI/2008/37

Dear Ms Sheehan,

I refer to your FOI request under Section 7 of the Freedom of Information Acts, 1997 and 2003, received in this office on 23/05/2008 in relation to Requesting records regarding the Corrib Gas Field. The application was received along with the associated fee.


The officer handling your request will be Ms Roisin Garland, Natural Resources - Petroleum Affairs Division, Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, 016782694

You can expect to receive your decision by the 23/06/2008.

If you have not received a decision by that time, you are automatically entitled to appeal to the Department for a review of the matter. This review proceeds on the legal basis that the initial request is considered to be refused once the specified time for responding to it has expired. A request for a review should be addressed to the undersigned at the address shown.

Please note the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources has a policy of posting a summary of non-personal requests and decisions on the Departments website for reference purposes.

Yours sincerely,

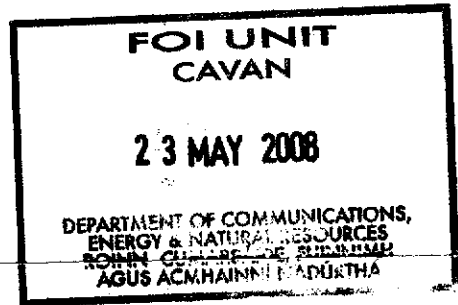
  
Seána McGearty

FOI Unit  
Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources  
Elm House, Earlsvale Rd  
Cavan

Phone: 01 6782902

Freedom of Information Unit  
Department of Communications, Energy & Natural Resources  
Elm House,  
Earlsvale Road,  
Cavan

Maeve Sheehan  
Sunday Independent  
Talbot Street  
Dublin 1



19 May 2007

FOI request - Shell

I wish to apply for the following documents under the Freedom of Information Act.

- a) all documents - including correspondence/emails/briefing notes - held by the Department containing reference to levels of projected gas production from the Corrib gas field from January 1 2006 to date.
- b) all documents - including correspondence/emails/briefing notes - containing reference to the distribution of gas output from the Corrib gas field, for the same period.
- c) all documents - including correspondence/emails/briefing notes regarding same - containing reference to the potential markets to Corrib gas may be sold/distributed.
- d) all documents as above referring to the impact Corrib gas production on the price of gas for domestic and business users.

I enclose an a cheque for E15 to cover the cost of the application.

Regards,  
Maeve Sheehan

The Sunday Independent  
087 6171325